

Durham Police Department Recruiting Unit
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Are you holding lateral academies at this time?

A: No, we are not. All selected applicants must attend our 26-week paid Basic Law Enforcement Training academy. However, a certified law enforcement officer with two years full time experience is eligible for a higher salary.

Q: I am BLET certified. Will I be required to attend the entire academy?

A: Yes, we are not having lateral academies at this time; therefore, all selected applicants will have to attend the 26-week paid academy.

Q: When is your next academy?

A: We run two police academies a year. One starts in February and the other one starts in August.

Q: How large is your department?

A: We have over 500 sworn police officers.

Q: Do you hire out- of-state candidates?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there a residency requirement?

A: No.

Q: How long does the hiring process take?

A: The hiring process takes four to six months.

Q: How many people are you hiring for your next academy?

A: The number of applicants is determined based on the present vacancy levels.

Q: Do I have to attend an open house informational session?

A: All in state applicants must attend an open house informational session.

Q: How long does the open house informational session last and what should I bring?

A: Open house informational sessions last approximately two hours. Please bring identification and something to take notes on.

Q: Does my packet need to be complete on the day that I report for testing?

A: Yes, please make sure that you have obtained all information and bring it with you on the day that you report for testing. The only items that may be missing are your school transcripts. Some schools require that they be sent directly to the agency.

Q: Is there an age requirement/cutoff?

A: All recruits must be 21 years of age by 30 days after graduation from the academy. There is not a maximum age.

Q: Is the academy paid training?

A: Yes. You are paid from the first date of employment.

Q: Would I have a take home car?

A: Uniform patrol officers do not have take home cars. Officers with some specialized units do have take home cars.

Q: Do I have to work patrol/street duty or can I go to a specialized unit once I graduate from the academy?

A: All recruits are assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division upon graduating from the academy. Uniform patrol officers work rotating 12-hour shifts in one of our five districts. Officers are eligible to apply to specialized units and promotions three years from their date of hire.

Q: What records are required and how do I obtain copies?

A: Certified copies of your driving record and criminal records checks from all counties that you have lived in since the age of 16. This includes out-of-state records.

Driving records may be obtained from the Department of Motor Vehicles of each state a driver's license has been held. This includes North Carolina.

Criminal records checks can be obtained from the Clerk of Courts office of each county you have resided in or from the state police of each state you have resided in since the age of 16. This includes military base assignment locations in the continental United States.

Certified copy of dispositions of all criminal and traffic charges issued to you or against you.

NOTE: Some states require the individual to make the request from each county they have resided in while other states have agencies that can run a statewide criminal/civil check.

Q: Will you accept copies of any documents that I have to pay for?

A: We must have all original documents.

Q: Can I do a ride along with an officer?

A: Once you have attended an open house informational session, you will be eligible to participate in the ride along program.

Q: Do I have to stay overnight at the academy?

A: No, recruits go home every night.

Q: What are the Durham Police Department's policies on tattoos, hairstyles, beards and jewelry?

A: Tattoos - All on-duty employees, including those working secondary employment, are prohibited from displaying any offensive tattoos, body art, branding, and/or unconventional body piercing, with the exception of employees working in an undercover capacity. For the purpose of this policy, "offensive includes tattoos that are vulgar, sexually explicit, racist, or regardless of content cover a large portion of exposed skin and "Unconventional" body piercing includes but is not limited to the areas of the tongue, nose, eyebrow and lip. Employees with tattoos, body art, or branding that is deemed inappropriate by their supervisor shall cover the area with a Department-approved uniform or by wearing a skin patch that covers the tattoos, body art, or branding. A skin patch is any patch or bandage that is of a neutral/skin tone.

Hairstyles - Hair shall not extend over the shirt collar or over the ears. The hairstyle shall not interfere with the proper wearing of the uniform.

Beards - The face will be clean shaven. Sideburns shall not extend below the middle of the earlobes.

Jewelry - The following items are authorized 1) one wrist watch 2) two finger rings of choice and 3) medical identification bracelet